

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH

# OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Michele Shalaby, Chair Nathaniel H. Yohalem Tara B. White Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting Monday, October 5, 2015 6 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** 

Michele Shalaby, Chair

Nathaniel Yohalem Tara B White

Others Present:

Mari Enoch, Town Administrator

Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary

Graham Frank, Police Chief

Owen Hoberman

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6 p.m. The minutes were read. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of September 21 and September 28, 2015 as amended.

### **Community Advisory Board**

Police Chief, Graham Frank, advised he would like to establish a Community Advisory Board and would solicit members from the community to help create this Board. Graham stated he would like to have 4-5 residents on this Board, and that these residents would be educated as to how the Department functions. The purpose of this Board is to identify, with the Police Department, matters such as the community perspective on the effectiveness of the Police Department, establish a mission statement, public awareness of crime, identify the needs of the community, etc. The NM5VN will have an article in their next edition requesting volunteers. The Board would meet once a month.

#### School Under Assessment

At the September 30, 2015 meeting at the School Subcommittee Meeting, the under assessment problem was discussed. The Towns of Alford, New Marlborough and Sheffield were under assessed, while both Egremont and Monterey were over assessed. It was agreed at that meeting that the towns would work together to try to resolve the issue. The School Committee voted to reduce the current budget by \$216,193 in unused salary and expenses. A meeting will be set up with all five towns to further discuss a resolution to this problem.

## **Personnel Policy**

The Board of Selectmen further discussed changes to the Personnel Policy. After suggested revisions are made, another meeting with the Personnel Committee will be scheduled to approve a revised Policy.

## **Town Administrator Updates**

The Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, announced that the Tax Collector, Gina Campbell, has successfully completed her probationary period.

Mari Enoch also reported she attended a Mass. Municipal breakfast where multiple voices were heard regarding the condition of culverts and roads. Representative Pignatelli was urged to work with DOT in an effort to make replacing or fixing them less expensive, especially the engineering costs.

Mari Enoch also reported she attended New Municipal Law Review hosted by the Division of Local Services.

Sharon Fleck advised she has been in touch with Mass. Department of Education regarding tuition reimbursement for one student attending vocational school.

The Town has still not received answers to questions asked of MBI. A discussion ensued regarding asking Tom Stalker and Richard Long to help the Town develop an RFP.

# Selectmen's Updates

Cemetery Lane – The Land Trust will provide a letter to the Board of Selectmen outlining their needs in order for property to be exchanged and given to the Cemetery Commission.

Paul Krom, Highway Department, has been awarded a "Roads Scholarship."

Kathy Chretien attended a three-day Town Clerks meeting in Springfield this past week. Kathy also brought information back to the Town regarding "Continuing Town Meeting in the Event of Inclement Weather."

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck Administrative Secretary